

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : C. Robert Gasparrini et al. Art Unit: 2854
Serial No. : 09/211,030 Examiner: R. Yan
Filed : December 14, 1998
For : **SOAK ON SITE AND SOAK ON PRESS
CLEANING SYSTEM AND METHOD OF USING SAME**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Preliminary to a substantive examination on the merits, please amend the above identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete claims 7-8, 12-16 and 18-50 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 1-3, 5-6, 9-11 and 17 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, the printing press comprising a frame, a cleaning fabric supply element mounted with respect to the frame and having a wound strip of cleaning fabric, a cleaning fabric take-up means mounted with respect to the frame, and means supported by the frame for guiding the strip of cleaning fabric from the supply element to the take-up means, the method comprising:

dipping said wound strip of cleaning fabric into a container containing a cleaning solvent, said container mounted with respect to the frame of the printing press and located between the cleaning fabric supply element and the cylinder;

unwinding said strip of cleaning fabric containing the solvent from said cleaning fabric supply element; and

cleaning said cylinder with a cylinder cleaning means mounted with respect to the frame for bringing said strip of cleaning fabric containing the solvent into contact with the cylinder, thereby creating a used strip of cleaning fabric which is received by the take-up means.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising winding said used strip of cleaning fabric on a take-up shaft.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said strip of cleaning fabric to be fed out of the cleaning fabric supply element is dipped into said solvent until said strip of cleaning fabric absorbs a measured amount of said solvent such that said strip of cleaning fabric is saturated to functional equilibrium with said solvent.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising removing excess solvent from said saturated strip of cleaning fabric to obtain a strip of cleaning fabric saturated to functional equilibrium before the step of cleaning the cylinder with said saturated strip of cleaning fabric.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein only a portion of said cleaning fabric supply element from where the strip of cleaning fabric is unwound from is dipped in the container containing said solvent prior to unwinding the strip of cleaning fabric from said cleaning fabric supply element.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said removing said excess solvent comprises squeezing said excess solvent from said strip of cleaning fabric.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising storing said removed excess solvent in said container.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising storing said removed excess solvent in a separate excess solvent container.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of dipping said cleaning fabric supply element comprises dipping at least substantially all of said cleaning fabric supply element in the container containing said solvent.

REMARKS

Claims 7-8, 12-16 and 18-50 have been cancelled and claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-11 and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In the event that a telephone conference would advance examination of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 0140-4126US5.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 6, 2001

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Please delete claims 7-8, 12-16 and 18-50 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 1-3, 5-6, 9-11 and 17 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of cleaning a cylinder of a printing press, the printing press comprising a frame, a cleaning fabric supply element mounted with respect to the frame and having a wound strip of cleaning fabric, a cleaning fabric take-up means mounted with respect to the frame, and means supported by the frame for guiding the strip of cleaning fabric from the supply element to the take-up means, the method comprising:

[(a)] first, placing a cleaning fabric supply roll having a strip of cleaning fabric in a cylinder cleaning system;

[(b) contacting] dipping said wound strip of cleaning fabric [with a low volatility, organic compound] into a container containing a cleaning solvent [which does not evaporate readily at ambient temperature and pressure and soaking said strip of cleaning fabric with said solvent], said container mounted with respect to the frame of the printing press and located between the cleaning fabric supply element and the cylinder;

unwinding said strip of cleaning fabric containing the solvent from said cleaning fabric supply element; and

[(c)] third,] cleaning said cylinder with a cylinder cleaning means mounted with respect to the frame for bringing said strip of cleaning fabric containing the solvent into contact with the cylinder, thereby creating a used [said saturated] strip of cleaning fabric which is received by the take-up means.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising [the step of] winding said used strip of cleaning fabric on a take-up shaft.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said strip of cleaning fabric to be fed out of the cleaning fabric supply element is [in contact with] dipped into said solvent until said strip of cleaning fabric absorbs a measured amount of said solvent such that said strip of cleaning fabric is saturated to functional equilibrium with said solvent.

5. (Amended) The method of claim [3] 1 further comprising [between steps two and three the step of] removing excess solvent from said saturated strip of cleaning fabric to obtain a strip of cleaning fabric saturated to functional equilibrium before the step of cleaning the cylinder with said saturated strip of cleaning fabric.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein [said step of contacting said strip of cleaning fabric comprises dipping] only a portion of said cleaning fabric supply element [roll in said container to allow at least substantially all of said strip of cleaning fabric to be brouth in contact with said solvent prior to being] from where the strip of cleaning fabric is unwound from said cleaning fabric supply element [roll] is dipped in the container containing said solvent prior to unwinding the strip of cleaning fabric from said cleaning fabric supply element.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein [said step of] said removing said excess solvent comprises squeezing said excess solvent from said strip of cleaning fabric.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising [the step of] storing said removed excess solvent in said container.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising [the step of] storing said removed excess solvent in a separate excess solvent container.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein [said step of contacting] dipping said cleaning fabric supply element comprises dipping at least substantially all of said cleaning fabric supply element [roll] in the [a] container containing said solvent.